

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03635 260921Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 AEC-11 AECE-00 SCI-06

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4434

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF TWO CAIRO 3635

3. NATURE OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT:

Q. IN AN EARLY QUESTION, A CONGRESSMAN ASKED SADAT IF HE WAS READY TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL.

A. SADAT REPLIED WITH THE STANDARD ANSWER HE HAS GIVEN MANY TIMES BEFORE. HE SAID THAT IN EARLY 1971 HE HAD SAID THAT HE WAS READY TO SIGN A "PEACE AGREEMENT" WITH ISRAEL. HE SAID THIS WAS A PUBLIC STATEMENT. THE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT IT. HE SAID HE TOLD MR. ROGERS THIS IN MAY 1971 AND ROGERS REPLIED "THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO." HE SAID HE WAITED FOR US RESPONSE, THERE WAS NONE, HE BECAME DISCOURAGED, FRUSTRATED, ETC.

Q. CONGRESSMAN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

A. SADAT REPLIED THE ARAB WORLD..THE MUSLIM WORLD MUST HAVE ARAB JERUSALEM UNDER ARAB CONTROL/ JURISDICTION. NO LEADER COULD PROPOSE OTHERWISE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03635 260921Z

SURVIVE.

Q. CONGRESSMAN ASKED ABOUT FUTURE STATUS OF SUEZ CANAL.

A. SADAT REPLIED EGYPT IS READY TO OPEN THE CANAL WITHIN FOUR MONTHS TO WORLD SHIPPING. HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO USE IT, BUT TERM "WORLD SHIPPING" LEFT IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL TOO COULD USE THE CANAL. SADAT SAID EGYPT ALREADY HAD A PLAN FOR CLEARING THE CANAL AND WAS READY TO BEGIN THE WORK IMMEDIATELY.

Q. CONGRESSMAN ASKED WHAT SORT OF SECURITY GUARANTEES ISRAEL WOULD HAVE IF IT PULLED BACK IN SINAI. WHAT WOULD PREVENT OTHER MORE MILITANT ARAB STATES AND PERHAPS FUTURE EGYPTIAN LEADERS FROM PURSUING A BEL-LIGERENT POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL.

A. SADAT AVOIDED FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE QUESTION BY SAYING THERE ARE "FANATICS" IN THE ARAB WORLD LIKE THERE ARE IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE. HE IMPLIED THAT HE ABJURED THE ATTITUDES OF ARAB FANATICS TOWARD ISRAEL AND THAT THE FANATICS AND THEIR ATTITUDES WERE OF RELATIVELY LITTLE IMPORTANCE AS LONG AS EGYPT WAS COMMITTED TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL.

HE USED THE QUESTION TO LAUNCH INTO AN EXTENDED AND SLIGHTLY EMOTIONAL STATEMENT ABOUT WHICH STATE--ISRAEL OR EGYPT--NEEDS SECURITY GUARANTEES. SADAT SAID "WE NEED GUARANTEES; I NEED GUARANTEES." HE RECOUNTED THE BOMBED-OUT CITIES ON THE CANAL AND THE HISTORY OF THE PAST 25 YEARS IN WHICH, ACCORDING TO SADAT, ISRAEL "AGGRESSED" FOUR TIMES AGAINST EGYPT, THUS PROVIDING AMPLE EVIDENCE TO DECIDE WHICH NATION NEEDED SECURITY GUARANTEES.

Q. CONGRESSMAN ASKED ABOUT FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS AND PALESTINIAN STATE.

A. SADAT'S REPLY WAS BRIEF AND NOT TOO ENLIGHTEN-
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 03635 260921Z

ING. HE SAID PALESTINIANS HAVE A RIGHT TO SOVEREIGN TERRITORY (BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHERE). PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT ANY ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS (BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHICH PALESTINIANS). HE AVOIDED ANY COMMENT REGARDING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO FORMER LAND IN WHAT IS NOW ISRAEL.

Q. ONE CONGRESSMAN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USSR HAS

POLICY AND CAPABILITY TO DOMINATE THE MIDDLE EAST AREA AND ASKED SADAT WHAT HE THOUGHT USSR INTENTIONS WERE IN AREA.

A. SADAT RESPONDED BY SAYING HE HAD READ IN WESTERN PRESS THAT HE HAD ASKED THE SOVIET MILITARY TO LEAVE EGYPT IN THE SUMMER OF 1972 BECAUSE THEY WERE GETTING A STANGLEHOLD ON HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE. HE SAID HE ASKED THE RUSSIANS TO LEAVE AND "15,000 OF THEM" LEFT IN ONE WEEK. SADAT SAID EGYPT WAS AN "INDEPENDENT" COUNTRY AND WOULD NOT BE DOMINATED BY ANY POWER.

4. US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS:

Q. ONE CONGRESSMAN MENTIONED THE RECENT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE TOLD SADAT THAT HE HOPED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD SOON HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON INCREASE IN FUNDS AND PERSONNEL FOR AN ENLARGED EMBASSY OPERATION IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

A. WHEN THE RECENT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS CONCLUDED, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID, IT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE RESTORED AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME, BUT IN THE MEANTIME RELATIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN BOTH CAPITALS. EGYPT HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND WILL VERY SOON BE SENDING SOMEONE TO GO TO THE INTERESTS SECTION IN WASHINGTON. HE ALSO ALLUDED TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD ASKED THE SECRETARY TO SEND "GOOD PEOPLE" TO THE AMERICAN INTERESTS SECTION WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AND WHO COULD REPORT IT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAIRO 03635 260921Z

ACCURATELY TO THE SECRETARY.

5. CULTURAL:

TWO CONGRESSMEN ASKED QUESTIONS THAT DEALT WITH US-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS (I.E., NAMRU-3, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAMS, FARMERS EXCHANGE).

A. SADAT'S RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS AND OTHERS LIKE IT WAS "WELCOME, WE WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE...WE HAVE HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THE PAST...WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH THE UNITED STATES...WE ONLY DIFFER ON ONE THING, THAT IS ISRAEL." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EGYPT DOESN'T ASK AMERICA TO LIKE HER, IT ONLY ASKS THAT THE US BE "NEUTRAL"

AND THAT IT NOT SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH ARMS TO SUPPORT AGGRESSIONS.
HE REFERRED TO THE PENDING \$2.2 BILLION IN MILITARY AID TO
ISRAEL AS PROOF OF UNLIMITED AID TO ISRAEL.
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